

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-5. (Canceled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A support material for an An electrocatalyst in fuel cells comprising a furnace carbon black, having a hydrogen content of greater than 4200 ppm, determined by CHN analysis, and a peak integral ratio, determined by inelastic neutron scattering, of non-conjugated hydrogen atoms ( $1250\text{ cm}^{-1}$ – $2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) to aromatic and graphitic hydrogen atoms ( $1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ – $1250\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $750\text{ cm}^{-1}$ – $1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) of less than 1.22 ~~1.22, wherein said furnace black is the support material for said electrocatalyst.~~